

WINTER**WINTER****WINTER**

Hamilton County Emergency Responder

**Volume 1, Issue 7****WINTER 2003**

From The Director

Don Allen, Hamilton County Emergency Services

All members of our Emergency Services team who have supervisory responsibilities are now involved in the second phase of our county management training initiative. One of the primary objectives of these sessions is to improve communications throughout all of our county departments. We are reviewing methods to improve our communication with each other, one-on-one, within our immediate work groups, with other county departments and with the general public. We think you will see the positive results of these classes with more concise and timely information flow within our organization.

We are still recovering from the shock and horror of the events of September 11, 2001, the resulting war on the Taliban, the threat of war in Iraq, only to be hit again by the tragedy of the Shuttle Columbia.

We pay special honor to the 7 courageous crewmembers who took extraordinary risks to advance the cause for their fellow man. We offer our condolences to their family and friends as we as a nation grieve with them.



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Comments or Suggestions to the Editor, Amy Maxwell:
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ATTENTION! **Welcome New Medics to EMS!!**



Jared Pelham A-Team (Full-Time)
Holly Webb A-Team (Full-Time)
Shawn Raulston A-Team (Full-Time)
Bradley Davenport B-Team (F.T.)
William McPherson B-Team (F.T.)
Michael Sharpe B-Team (F.T.)
Charles Daniel B-Team (F.T. EMT)
Bradley Green B-Team (F.T. EMT)

SAFETY NEWS

On November 15, 2002, Hamilton County Local Emergency Planning Committee conducted a simulated training exercise at the JIT Terminal facility. The scenario was a leak and fire in the area of the propane highway cargo tank truck loading rack. Hamilton County Emergency Services,



Photo By: Amy Maxwell

Chattanooga Fire Department and Chattanooga Police Department participated with this exercise.

The Emergency Response agencies and JIT Terminal personnel demonstrated their ability to coordinate fire suppression.

Customer Service Coordinator added to EMS

EMS welcomes Lt. Jerry McDonald to the position of Customer Service Coordinator/ Infection Control Officer. In addition to communicating with patients regarding the care they received, Lt. McDonald also deals with ambulance billing issues and assists with field training. He is responsible for employee safety concerns, including infection control and exposures.



Jerry is married and has 2 children. He has been a paramedic for 10 years and been involved with Emergency Services for 12 years. He enjoys outdoor activities, such as, playing golf, hunting and fly-fishing.

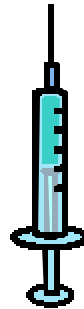
WELCOME LT. MCDONALD!!



Challenges to Infection Control

By: Amy Maxwell

Emergency Medicine poses a significant challenge to infectious control for EMS, First Responders and even hospitals. Emergency Departments work under blinding bright lights in a hospital, while EMT's, paramedics and firefighters often find themselves working in the dark of night and totally oblivious to the body fluids they sometimes can't see. They function in many ways to help those that have summoned their help, secure airways, breathe for people that are not breathing, control bleeding, and do compressions on people that have gone into cardiac arrest. Besides their dedication to caring for trauma patients, they share a significant exposure to blood-borne pathogens and other occupational risks. Taking care of patients is increasingly becoming a territory of infection control.



Hamilton County EMS Training Division believes the key to minimizing occupational exposures is to provide ongoing education to the Emergency Responders. This year, EMS Training Division will be training HCEMS and First Responders within Hamilton County. Along with educating on infectious control, the Training Division will also review how to protect themselves from small pox and/or anthrax contamination.

The world is changing and Hamilton County EMS is keeping up with the changes that are out there by keeping Emergency Responders educated and up to date on all the new materials that will make a difference for a long and healthy career. HCEMS requires the use of protective equipment, good hand washing techniques and keeping up with current recommendations for infectious diseases.



Photo By: Amy Maxwell

Pictured Left to Right: Capt. Darlene Poole, Chief Marcus Fritts & Chief Al Rosamond; Dallas Bay VFD, Captain John Tittle; Highway 58 VFD, Deputy Chief Jimmy Burnette; Red Bank F.D., Lt. Jody Clift; HCES, Deputy Chief John Combes; HCEMS, Captain Jackie Blankenship & Chief Dean Moses; Chattanooga Airport Fire Department, Lt. Jerry McDonald & Lt. Eric Ethridge; HCEMS, and Chief Opey Harris; Mowbray Mtn. VFD.



EMS NEWS

Strokes are like Brain Attacks!

Treat them like an emergency!

By: Amy Maxwell

In the last year or two, we've heard the term "brain attack" used more frequently to describe stroke. A brain attack is similar to a heart attack in that both are associated with a loss of blood supply to a targeted organ. Patients seem to understand the urgency in dealing with heart attacks, but that is not always the case with a stroke. Maybe the term "brain attack" will get them thinking.



According to the National Stroke Association, a stroke or "brain attack" has been viewed as unpreventable and untreatable. Most of the public assume that strokes only happen to the elderly and therefore the younger generation is not that concerned. Even today, the public has no motivation for complying with "prescribed interventions". Believing that strokes are untreatable, the public fails to respond to symptoms. As a result, "the average stroke patient waits more than 12 hours before presenting at the emergency room" says Dr. Paul Diefenbach, Neurosurgeon at Saint Vincent Hospital. Even some health care providers take an attitude of "watchful waiting" instead of treating a "brain attack" as a medical emergency. There are other health care providers that are increasing their dedication to "emergent stroke treatment". Emergency Responders is an example.

Photo By: Amy Maxwell

Hamilton County EMS and Chattanooga Fire Department Training Division has annual training classes for emergency services personnel that reviews how to evaluate and treat stroke patients appropriately. This year, Hamilton County EMS, along with First Responder Agencies will be training within the Hamilton County area. With the up-to-date advances in medical treatment, including "brain attacks" or strokes, First Responders and Emergency Medical Services are the vital links in the chain of initial patient management and stabilization.



*Pictured: Luke Gibson, Lt. Andy Gienapp,
Michelle Burdette & Cynthia Schermerhorn*

Photo By: Amy Maxwell



FIRE TRAINING & HAZMAT NEWS



A facelift for HAZMAT...

By: Lt. Buddy Kamin



Hamilton County HazMat has upgraded its Decontamination Unit. Originally, The DECON Unit was set up to do "limited" DECON 10 years ago. With a Weapons of Mass Destruction Grant thru the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, we have upgraded and expanded our "limited" DECON Unit to have a "multiple" purpose DECON Unit. A Multi-purpose DECON Unit will enable the HazMat Team to use Basic DECON equipment to Mass DECON equipment.

This Unit will be stationed at Lovell Field Air Crash Fire Station (Chattanooga Airport), which is a centralized location for a rapid response. The new call sign for the DECON Unit is **DC1**. The Unit is self-supportive, excluding water which will be supplied by the Local Fire Department. The DECON Unit can operate three separate DECON Lines at one time and stores a 12 x 12 inflatable tent with hot water capacities and heater for cold weather. **Photos of the inside/outside DC1 DECON Unit.**



Inside Unit has portable showers, & label containers for mass DECON



Left inside door has several hoses for water distribution



Right inside door has different types/sizes scrub brushes

EMERGENCY STATS

December 2002 & January 2003

EMS: 3, 715 calls

FIRE & RESCUE: 675 calls

Provided By: Hamilton County Emergency Services Communications

MEDIC MESS HALL



CROCKPOT CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| * 3 1/2 Lb Chicken | * 2 celery stalks (chopped) |
| * 2 medium carrots | * 2 1/2 t Salt |
| * 1/2 C onion | * 2 t dried parsley flakes |
| * 3/4 t dried marjoram | * 1/2 t dried basil leaves |
| * 1/4 t poultry seasoning | * 1/4 t pepper |
| * 1 bay leaf | * 2 qt. water |
| * 2 1/2 C egg noodles — uncooked | |

Place chicken, carrots, onions, celery in slow cooker. Combine salt and next 6 ingredients; sprinkle over vegetables. Add 6 cups water; cover & cook on low setting 8 to 10 hours. Remove chicken and bay leaf; add remaining 2 cups of water. Stir in noodles and cook, covered, on high setting 20 minutes or until noodles are tender.

Serving size : 10

EMS TRAINING

By: Jack Carroll, HCEMS



FEBRUARY & MARCH 2003: "Stroke Alert Training"

Hamilton County Emergency Services is leading the way to more proficient patient care in Hamilton County. All of Hamilton County Emergency Medical Services and Hamilton County Volunteer Fire Departments are being trained in the "Miami Emergency Neurological Deficit" (MEND) exam. This training will better equip the care provider to recognize a potential stroke and activate a series of events to expedite patient care to the citizens of Hamilton County. The biggest change is early recognition of a stroke, and then entering the patient into the "Stroke Protocol" much in the same way we currently treat "Major Trauma" patients. The goal is to have all HCEMS and all Volunteer Fire Department First Responders trained by April 30, 2003.

There are training sessions occurring regularly at Medic 3 that is open to anyone to attend. Please register with Captain Darlene Poole at (423) 209-6928 as space is limited. The sessions are 4 hours over two different days. The Fire Training staff will be training the fire departments.

At the end of April will be the next ACLS course sponsored by HCEMS. BCLS sponsored by Hutcheson Medical Center will be in May, and again August 1st and 8th sponsored by Chattanooga State.

**April 16 – 18, 2003 will be the annual
EMS Symposium at the Chattanooga
Choo-Choo sponsored by SEEMSDA.
Look for more information to follow.**

Congratulations!

CALL OF THE MONTH

DECEMBER

Medical: Paramedics Tim Prince & Lanette Stratton

Trauma: Paramedics Scott Powell & Hoyt Dalton